

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 IO-13 SAJ-01 BIB-01 /080 W
-----220156Z 130260 /71

R 211543Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3970
INFO AMEMBSSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBSSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, GE, CZ
SUBJECT: GDR COVERAGE OF CHARTER 77.

1. THE GDR HAS THUS FAR REFRAINED FROM INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY
IN ITS MEDIA COVERAGE ON THE CHARTER 77 CONTROVERSY IN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF ITS JANUARY 15 EDITION,
HOWEVER SED ORGAN NEUES DEUTSCHALND REPRINTED EXTENSIVE EXERPTS FROM A

JANUARY 12 RUDE PRAVO EDITORIAL ATTACKING THE CHARTER 77
GROUP AND REPEATING THAT THE YEAR 1968 WOULD NOT BE REPEATED
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ON JANUARY 18, ND REPORTS THAT CEZCH
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CITIZENS "OTTO ORNEST , V.H. J.L. AND F.P." WERE
ARRESTED ON JANUARY 17 FOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AGAINST
THE REPUBLIC. IT NOTES THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD
LONG BEEN IN CONTACT WITH FOREIGN ENEMIES AND EMIGRATION
CENTERS AND HAD GIVEN THEM MATERIALS DAMAGING TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IT FURTHER REPORTS THAT THOSE ARRESTED
HAD USED MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS OF CAPITALIST

STATES TO BRING PUBLICATION INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. COMMENT: THE GDR PRESS HAS FOCUSED MORE ON THE RECENT VISITS OF FONMIN BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK JANUARY 7 AND KAREL HOFFMANN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CZECH LABOR MOVEMENT JANUARY 19 THAN ON DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE JOINT PRESS DECLARATION ISSUED AFTER THE CHNOUPEK VISIT FOR EXAMPLE STRESSED FURTHER GDR/CSSR FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION ON THE BASIS OF THE BUCHAREST WARSAW PACT MEETING. WE HAVE RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION FROM A CZECH DIPLOMAT THAT THE CHNOUPEK VISIT WAS NOT RPT NOT INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR COORDINATING BILATERAL VIEWS ON RECENT DOMESTIC EVENTS IN EITHER COUNTRY. THE RE-PRINTING OF EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS FROM RUDE PRAVO MAY BE INTENDED BY THE REGIME AS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO WESTERN RADIO COVERAGE OF CZECH DEVELOPMENTS, AND AS AN INDIRECT WARNING TO GDR CITIZENS THAT THE REGIME WILL NOT TOLERATE OPEN EXPRESSIONS OF DISSENT. MENTION OF CAPITALIST EMBASSIES MAY BE A DISTURBING NEW ELEMENT OF GDR MEDIA COVERAGE ON SUCH SUBJECTS. TO DATE ONLY THE FRG PERMANENT MISSION HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM OF ITS ACTIVITIES HERE, THOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY FOR BRINGING IN PUBLICATIONS. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PARTIES, RESOLUTIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0780
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabbad.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ba1561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3543112
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR COVERAGE OF CHARTER 77.
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, GC, CZ, CHARTER 77
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ba1561d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009